



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

**Barry Kelly, along with Keith Klefsted, George Howell, and Bill Peterson (not pictured), of Bartlett Tree Experts prune trees in the vicinity of Building 2. During Spring Break, Bartlett Tree Experts will remove a Great American Elm tree, located near the Killian Court entrance to Building 3, which has reached its life expectancy.**

## Scholarship to be '06 Senior Gift

*Annual Reward to Senior Will Be Based on Contribution to Community*

Last night, the Class of 2006 unveiled its Senior Gift: an annual scholarship for a senior who contributes to the MIT community, said Ryan F. Allard '06, Chair of the Senior Gift Committee.

Following tradition, the current alumni association president is the challenger, encouraging Class of 2006 members to participate. Scott P. Marks Jr. '68 pledged to donate \$25,000 if 60 percent of the class donates, \$20,000 if

50 percent donates, down to \$5,000 if between 20 and 30 percent participate. "I'm interested in helping the senior class" build their fund, and providing "extra motivation," he said.

In a departure from the usual Fibonacci Challenge, where seniors donate \$10, then \$10, \$20, \$30, etc., the theme this year is the 5.0 challenge, where students who donate \$50 or more are part of the "5.0 club." As usual, seniors are not limited to donating to the senior gift. In addition, they can designate their donation to Undergraduate Research Opportuni-

ties, Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation/Sports at MIT, another designation of their choosing, or Institute Unrestricted funds.

Allard said the choice of senior gift was based on a senior survey carried out in November. He anticipates that the scholarship will amount to about four percent of the funds donated to that category, though it may vary from year to year.

The 2006 Senior Gift Web site is <http://web.mit.edu/senior-gift/index.html>.

— Jenny Zhang

## Nanoknitting Operation Restores Hamster Sight

*More Testing Required Before Trials on Humans*

**By Carey Goldberg**  
*THE BOSTON GLOBE*

In work that may hold promise for victims of spinal cord and brain injuries, researchers report that they have managed to restore sight to blinded hamsters using a process they call nanoknitting.

The work represents the first time that nanotechnology - engineering on an ultra-tiny scale - has been used to fix brain damage, said Rutledge Ellis-Behnke PhD '03, a neuroscientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the lead researcher on the paper.

It will be years before the knitting technique can be tried in humans, and it must still prove its worth in other animal experiments. But Ellis-Behnke said he hopes it can someday serve as part of a multipronged therapy to help regenerate nerve connections in the millions of people who suffer strokes, spinal cord damage,

and brain injuries, particularly those whose brain injuries leave them "no longer the person that was before."

"Our goal is to try to reconnect disconnected parts to restore that person as much as possible," he said.

The researchers injected nanofibers into the gap created by cutting the neural pathway that enables vision. These fibers linked themselves together into a tiny scaffold that apparently helped heal the brain tissue and let axons - the transmission lines that connect neurons - regrow.

The knitting technique offers a possible way to overcome a formidable problem: When neural connections in the brain or spinal cord are damaged, they don't tend to heal, which can result in lifelong brain damage and paralysis. When a neuron is cut, Ellis-Behnke said, it sprouts a "growth tip," like a tree

Nanoknitting, Page 14

## Admit Rate for 2010 Smaller Than Usual, One in Eight Gets In

**By Angeline Wang**  
*ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR*

Only 13 percent of MIT's applicants got in this year — a recent low for the Admissions Office, which expects that an even higher percentage of admitted students will enroll this fall than last.

Out of 11,373 applicants to the Institute, only 1,474 have been accepted, but MIT hopes to admit students from its waiting list as well, something it hasn't done for the last three years. Last year, 14 percent of the applicants were accepted, and in 2003 and 2004, 16 percent were accepted.

Of those accepted, the percentage who actually come to MIT, known as the yield, has steadily increased in the last few years. It hovered around 55 percent in the late 1990s, but jumped to 60 percent in 1999 and hit a high of 67 percent in 2005 for the Class of 2009.

"We are planning for an increased yield [of 68 percent] this year, and therefore we did admit fewer students," Senior Associate Director of Admissions Stuart Schmill said.

"The key for us is doing two things: admitting students who are a great match for MIT, who are interested in the things we do here, and not letting finances drive their decisions," Schmill said. "If we do those two things, students will choose to come. For students who want an analytical education, there is no better place than MIT."

Another lure for prospective students is the Institute's new financial aid initiative, where MIT will match Federal Pell Grants for all eligible students, Schmill said.

Harvard last year and Stanford this year have also announced plans for increasing financial aid for students from low income families.

The 1,474 acceptances includes 377 applicants admitted early, as well as 107 international students. There were a total of 2,575 international applications.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia are represented, as well as 61 foreign countries and territories, Schmill said. This year's admitted class is 52 percent male and 48 percent female, according to Dean of Admissions Marilee Jones. Twelve percent of the deferred applicants from the early applicant pool were accepted during regular admissions.

The Institute also raised the admission of under-represented minorities back up to 19 percent, which is close to the 20 percent accepted for the Classes of 2006 through 2008.

According to e-mail from Jones after Early Action decisions were sent, the Admissions office "redoubled our recruitment efforts for this cycle" after getting only 14 percent under-represented minorities for the Class of 2009.

Instead of waiting for the decision letters which were mailed out Friday, a majority of the applicants checked for their decision online Saturday.

"Within two hours of the decisions going live, approximately 7,000 of the 11,373 applicants had checked the site," Schmill said. "More have been checking through the weekend."

Earlier this month, the College Board discovered errors in the pro-

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PHOTO COURTESY OF VALENTINA LUGO

**The Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers collaborated to organize a Karaoke Night for Charity on Saturday, March 18 in the Student Center Coffeehouse. Over 100 students attended, and the event raised more than \$350 for the Boston Ronald McDonald House.**



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Students, local professionals perform in Juggle Mania II.

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CAMPUS LIFE

Cassandra R. Hunt describes her experience of getting sued by the RIAA.

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WORLD & NATION

Business Prepares For the Possibility of Avian Flu

By Melanie Warner THE NEW YORK TIMES

The deadly strain of avian flu has not been found anywhere in the Western Hemisphere, but Mark Holden, a chicken grower for Tyson Foods in Ellijay, Ga., is not taking any chances. Every seven weeks a group of his chickens is tested before the birds are sent to be slaughtered. All people who enter or leave the chicken houses must walk through disinfecting baths. And visitors and workers must wear plastic booties over their shoes. "Even though we don't have any outbreak now, we want to take all the precautions we can to protect our product," said Holden, who has been in the chicken business for 10 years and lives across the street from one of his chicken houses. Poultry producers and restaurants doubt that their chickens will be infected by avian flu or that people would catch the virus even if there were contamination. But they are concerned that if the virus gets to the United States, people will eat less chicken, simply out of fear. And they are revving up big plans to be prepared. In Senate testimony earlier this month, Michael Leavitt, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, declared that it was "just a matter of time" before birds infected with the virus found their way to the United States.

FBI Agent Testifies Superiors Didn't Pursue Moussaoui Case

By Neil A. Lewis THE NEW YORK TIMES ALEXANDRIA, VA.

The FBI agent who arrested and interrogated Zacarias Moussaoui just weeks before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks told a jury on Monday how he tried repeatedly to get his superiors in Washington to help confirm his certainty that Moussaoui was involved in some imminent terrorist airline hijacking plot. But the agent, Harry Samit, testified that he was regularly thwarted by senior bureau officials whose obstructionism he later described to Justice Department investigators as "criminally negligent" and who were, he believed, motivated principally by a need to protect their careers. Samit's testimony added a wealth of detail to the notion that officials at the FBI played down, ignored and purposely mischaracterized the increasingly dire warnings from field agents in the Minneapolis office that they had a terrorist on their hands in Moussaoui.

For Airline Employees, Free Flights Are in Free Fall

By Jeff Bailey THE NEW YORK TIMES

Through deep pay cuts, shrunken pensions and longer hours, airline employees who survived the endless rounds of layoffs knew they could still count on one thing: free flights. But that perk, a touch of jet-setting glamour in an increasingly dreary line of work, is now much harder to use because so many flights are full. "This system is now just ripping at the seams," said Patricia Hadon, an American Airlines flight attendant for 29 years who often enjoyed flying in first class. "We all came to work here because we value the benefit. We are middle-class people, but this allows us to have upper-class experiences." Airline employees and many of their family members can fly standby, taking unsold seats. But after post-Sept. 11 problems prompted airlines to reduce their fleets, a strong economy has revived demand for business and leisure travel. Planes now fly on average with only about 22 percent of seats unsold. While that still sounds like a lot, quite a few are on unpopular routes or at inconvenient times. Many popular routes in prime hours are packed.

Bush Speech Concedes War Setbacks, Remains Hopeful

By Elisabeth Bumiller THE NEW YORK TIMES CLEVELAND

President Bush on Monday held out the northern Iraqi city of Tal Afar as an example of U.S. success in the war, but he also acknowledged in remarks that were as grim as they were hopeful that the city's improvements were not matched in other parts of Iraq. In the second of a series of speeches meant to build up sagging support for the war, Bush said that U.S. forces had driven insurgents from Tal Afar in 2004, only to see them move back in two months later. The Americans learned from their mistakes, the president said, and in 2005 worked with Iraqi forces to retake lost ground and begin to bring the city back to life. "I wish I could tell you that the progress made in Tal Afar is the same in every single part of Iraq," Bush told the City Club of Cleveland at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel. "It's not." Overall, Bush's speech was a positive message that conceded some of the setbacks on the ground, a formulation meant to portray the president

as not living in a fantasy world about the three-year war. "In the face of continued reports about killings and reprisals, I understand how some Americans have had their confidence shaken," Bush said. "Others look at the violence they see each night on their television screens and they wonder how I can remain so optimistic about the prospects of success in Iraq. They wonder what I see that they don't." To answer that, Bush told his audience his story of Tal Afar, a city of 200,000 near the Syrian border that was a crucial base of operations for the Iraqi insurgent group al-Qaida in Mesopotamia. The insurgents had turned the city into a nightmare of violence, Bush said, with beheadings, kidnappings and mortars fired into soccer fields filled with children. "In one grim incident, the terrorists kidnapped a young boy from the hospital and killed him, and then they booby-trapped his body and placed him along the road where his family would see him," Bush said. "And when the boy's father came to retrieve his son's body, he was blown up." But Bush recounted how U.S. and Iraqi forces launched a major military offensive against the insurgents last fall, including the construction of an eight-foot dirt wall around the city to cut off escape routes. After successful combat operations were over, Bush said, more than 1,000 Iraqi forces were deployed to keep order. "In short, you see a city coming back to life," Bush said. Military analysts do not dispute Bush's version of events, and correspondents on the ground say that the security situation in Tal Afar is significantly better than it was before the military operation last fall. But the analysts also say that the offensive required so many U.S. troops — 5,000 — that it would be difficult if not impossible to replicate in other parts of Iraq, particularly in Baghdad, and that success in Tal Afar does not translate into improved security for most Iraqis. Democrats used Bush's speech to step up their criticism on the three-year anniversary of the war, saying that the White House was on the verge of trading a brutal dictator, Saddam Hussein, for chaos.

U.S. Calling For New Vote After Belarus's Presidential Election

By C.J. Chivers and Steven Lee Myers THE NEW YORK TIMES MINSK, BELARUS

The United States declared the results of the presidential election in Belarus invalid on Monday and called for a new race, even as President Aleksandr G. Lukashenko defiantly swept aside criticism and declared himself the winner of a third term. In an impassioned appearance hours after state television announced that he had won nearly 83 percent of the vote, Lukashenko exuded confidence and said the outcome had "convincingly demonstrated who the Belarusians are and who is the master of our house." He said he was unafraid of further economic and political isolation after an election that Washington and international observers described as

illegitimate, having been rigged and held under widespread repression. "The United States does not accept the results of the election," said Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman. "We support the call for a new election." The principal opposition candidate, Aleksandr Milinkevich, who received 6 percent of the vote, according to the government's initial count, said, "We are simply not going to recognize the election." Several thousand opposition demonstrators once again ignored warnings that they could be arrested or beaten and returned in the evening to a central square in Minsk to continue peaceful protests against the results. But the crowd that appeared Monday was smaller than that on Sunday, and Milinkevich's campaign manager, Sergei Kalyakin, acknowledged the difficulties of challenging the deeply entrenched power of Lukashenko, often referred to as Europe's last dictator. "The number who came to the square was not enough," he said. "We need 10 times more." Reaction to the election has thus far broken along familiar lines, with Western organizations and officials issuing condemnations and in some cases vowing to seek punitive measures against Belarus, while Russia and the representatives of other former Soviet states have celebrated Lukashenko's victory. Echoing the Bush administration, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which brought 400 observers here, sharply criticized the election, noting harassment and arrests of opposition candidates, propagandistic coverage on state media and extensive irregularities in the counting of ballots.

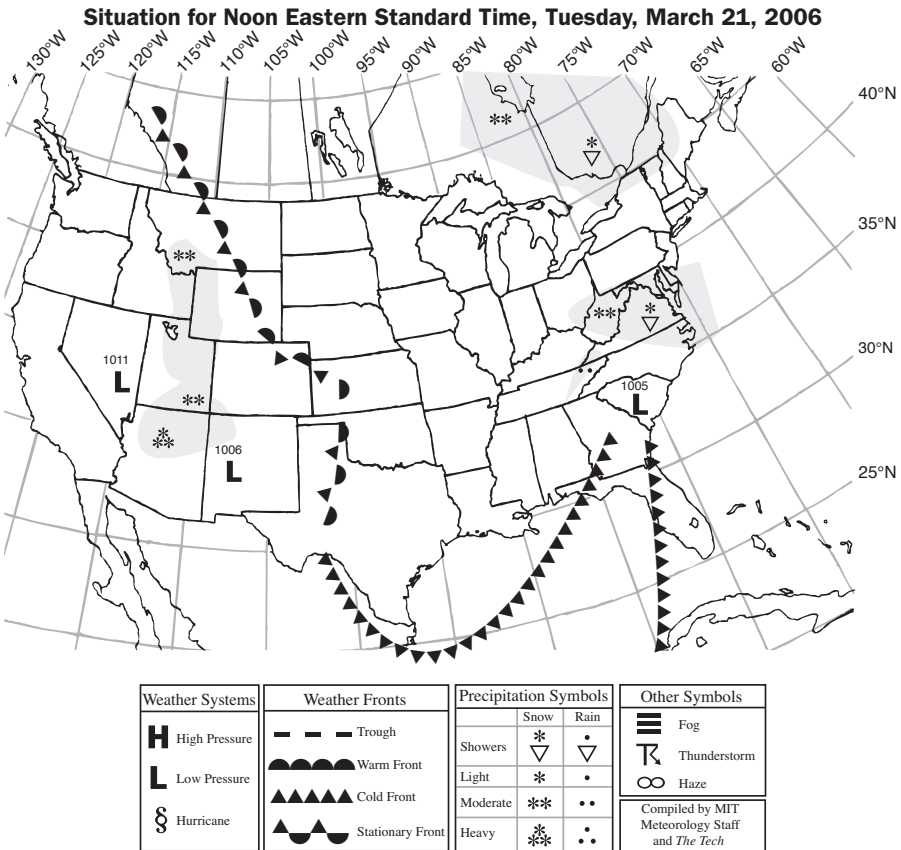
WEATHER

Time to Buy Home Depot Stock

By Timothy R. Whitcomb STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Hooke's Law tells the force on an object displaced from equilibrium due to a spring. The greater the displacement, the greater the force. Spring, which began today, is already far from normal. Climatology (high/low/mean temperature) for yesterday was 47/33/40°F, but the observed value was 34/22/28. Brrrr! Hopefully this difference means a large force will bring us back to where we should be — a place that involves clear skies and balmy temperatures. Could it be worse, though? Certainly! While the past few days have been nothing to write home about here in New England, interesting things are happening elsewhere. Below the equator, Fall is beginning — right in the middle of hurricane season. Australia is picking up the pieces after a tropical cyclone that reached Category 5 just before making landfall yesterday morning. The southern hemisphere is not the only interesting spot in terms of weather. In Hawaii, stationary systems have continued to dump buckets of precipitation; in Mount Waialeale (on Kauai), the rain total was 10.5" — in five days — bringing the three-week total to over 100. At Lihue, the month-to-date precipitation is over 25" (almost 36 since Jan. 1). This is almost 23 inches above normal for March monthly precipitation and has led to many flooding situations. Suddenly, the cold doesn't look so bad.

Extended Forecast Today: Sunny becoming cloudy, high 43°F (6°F) Tonight: Cloudy, low 33°F (1°C) Wednesday: Cloudy, high 46°F (8°C) Wednesday night: Cloudy, low 32°F (0°C) Thursday: Cloudy, high 42°F (6°C)



# U.S. Citizen Stabbed to Death In Mexican Drug Trading City

By **Ginger Thompson**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

MEXICO CITY

A man identified as an American citizen was found stabbed to death on Sunday in Nuevo Laredo, a city of 300,000 along Mexico’s border with the United States that has become the principal battlefield for Mexico’s most powerful drug trafficking organizations.

The Mexican authorities said Joe Cantu, 47, of San Antonio, had been found dead with more than 13 stab wounds.

The authorities said they had not determined the motive for the killing. But one official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to disclose information related to the case, said it appeared that the killing might have involved a drug-related dispute.

The killing followed the assassinations last week of four federal police officers and the killing two weeks ago of the chief of the state police unit in Nuevo Laredo and of the director of the city’s emergency response system.

Diplomats and law enforcement officials on both sides of the border said the attacks were linked to the fight for control of the lucrative drug

trafficking routes that run through Nuevo Laredo into Texas. They said the recent wave of violence proved that a crackdown against drug traffickers that was started last year by President Vicente Fox had failed to end the lawlessness there.

“The police continue to serve criminal organizations,” said a human rights advocate, Arturo Solis. “And until that changes, the violence will continue.”

Last June, after the killing of the local police chief seven hours after he was sworn into office, Fox sent hundreds of federal agents to take control of law enforcement in Nuevo Laredo. He ordered all local police officers removed from duty pending the results of drug and lie detector tests. More than half of the force failed the tests and were dismissed.

The governor of Tamaulipas state, Eugenio Hernandez, provided new equipment for the beleaguered department, including uniforms, cars and a communication system.

A diplomat in Nuevo Laredo, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case publicly, said the killing of the coordinator of the emergency response system, Ramiro Tellez Contreras, was in retaliation for installing

a new police communications system.

Drug traffickers had gained access to police radio frequencies and used them, the authorities said, to issue threats or orders.

But Solis contended that the municipal police force continued to serve drug traffickers. He said that when the government pushed against the traffickers, the traffickers pushed back.

Earlier this year, the diplomat said, the city’s emergency response system was disrupted when a man stole a bulldozer from a city crew at work near the police communications center and toppled the main antenna. Mexico’s interior minister, Carlos Abascal, and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff signed an agreement early this year to improve cooperation among federal law enforcement agencies on both sides of the border. Last week, Fox sent 800 more federal officers to Nuevo Laredo. Two days later, four of those officers were shot dead on a busy street in daylight.

Ruben Aguilar, the chief spokesman for Fox, said the four officers had detected a safe house that was being used by the notorious Gulf Cartel, which has long controlled drug trafficking in Nuevo Laredo.

# Israel Briefly Reopens Gaza Strip Crossing to Get Palestinians Food

By **Greg Myre**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

JERUSALEM

Israel reopened the main freight crossing to the Gaza Strip on Monday to allow delivery of flour and sugar to the Palestinians. But it abruptly closed the crossing after just a half-hour, citing security threats.

Israel has kept the Karni Crossing shut for most of the past two months, saying it has intelligence that Palestinians are planning to attack the goods terminal, which has often been a target.

But with Gaza’s food stocks running low, the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Richard H. Jones, arranged for talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians on Sunday night, and

Israel agreed to allow food supplies into Gaza on Monday.

“The shortage of basic food-stuffs was weighed against the terror threat, and the logical decision to open it for a limited amount of time was made with the hope the Palestinians will uphold their commitments,” Amos Gilad, a Defense Ministry official, told Israel Radio.

But shortly after he spoke, Karni was again closed. The military said there were security alerts, but did not provide details.

Salim Abu Safiya, who handles border crossing issues for the Palestinians in Gaza, told Reuters, “The Israelis need to stop using this silly method and these silly alerts.”

During the brief period Karni was open, only a few trucks from

Israel managed to unload their goods for delivery into Gaza. The Palestinians were not permitted to move their products in the other direction. The Palestinian exports, mostly fruits, vegetables and flowers, have been rotting during the long closing.

When Israel shut Karni for three weeks beginning in mid-January, the military said it had information that Palestinians were digging a tunnel to attack Karni. The Palestinians say they have searched for tunnels but have not found any.

Gaza’s economy is hugely dependent on the crossing for all its imports and exports. The Palestinians have not been permitted to build a port, reopen the Gaza airport or trade directly with Egypt.

# Supreme Court Considers Use of 911 Calls as Evidence Against Attackers

By **Linda Greenhouse**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON

A crime victim’s emergency call to 911, when introduced in court, can provide powerful evidence of the attacker’s identity and the circumstances of the crime.

Perhaps too powerful — or so most Supreme Court justices seemed to conclude during an argument Monday on whether the prosecution could use such evidence without violating defendants’ constitutional rights to face their accusers in the courtroom.

The constitutional problem arises when the victim fails to appear in court and is therefore not available for cross-examination.

In domestic violence cases, the scenario is common; in one study cited to the Supreme Court, as many as 90 percent of victims of domestic violence fail to cooperate with the prosecution, because of fear or misplaced loyalty to their abusive partners. Rather than abandon such cases, a growing number of states have begun to relax their evidentiary rules and permit juries to hear 911 tapes or read transcripts of police interviews with victims.

Two years ago, however, the Supreme Court issued an unmistakable warning that these efforts were likely

to collide with the Sixth Amendment’s Confrontation Clause, which guarantees to a criminal defendant the right “to be confronted with the witnesses against him.”

In Crawford v. Washington, the court laid down a new rule: A “testimonial” statement made out of court cannot be used at trial unless the person who made the statement is available for cross-examination.

Now the question is whether the justices meant what they said, even in situations with strong policy arguments for bending the rules. Based on their responses in the courtroom on Monday, they did.

The Crawford case barred the admission of a woman’s tape-recorded eyewitness account of a fight in which her husband stabbed another man. But the court stopped short of defining the various types of “testimonial” statements to which the newly empowered Confrontation Clause would now apply. Defense lawyers around the country soon began to argue that the decision should bar the admission of 911 calls and of statements given to police officers who respond to a crime scene.

Two cases were argued to the court on Monday, one of each type. Both have drawn wide attention from organizations concerned with domestic violence. In Davis v. Wash-

ington, No. 05-5224, the Washington Supreme Court rejected a defense argument that a 911 call from a woman who said her former boyfriend had violated a no-contact order and was beating her constituted a testimonial.

The incident took place, and the man, Adrian M. Davis, was convicted, before the Crawford decision. The victim, Michelle McCottry, was subpoenaed but failed to appear in court. Following the Crawford decision, Davis’ lawyers argued on appeal that the admission of the 911 tape violated his right to confrontation, but the Washington Supreme Court said the call was not testimonial. It was, the court said, a request for “help to be rescued from peril.”

In the second case, Hammon v. Indiana, No. 05-5705, the Indiana Supreme Court likewise upheld a conviction for domestic battery, ruling that a wife’s statement to the police officer who arrived to investigate a report of a disturbance could be used as evidence against her husband, Herschel Hammon. The wife, Amy Hammon, failed to appear in court. Her statement to the investigating officer was not testimonial, the Indiana court ruled, because her “motivation was to convey basic facts” rather than provide evidence for later use at trial.

## Scientists Oppose Delisting Park’s Grizzlies

By **Jim Robbins**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

HELENA, MONT.

A group of 269 biologists and other scientists from around the country asked the Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday not to lift the protections given to the Yellowstone grizzly bear by the Endangered Species Act.

Doing that, they said, could jeopardize its survival. A letter from the scientists came on the last day of the comment period on the agency’s plan to remove protection for the bear. The service has said that the bear population, estimated at 500 to 600, is fully recovered and growing at 4 percent a year. There are safeguards to restore protection, federal biologists say, if the numbers decline.

Some environmental groups, including the National Wildlife Federation, support the move to remove the bear from the endangered list.

The letter from opponents of the move says the Yellowstone grizzly is cut off from other bears, and therefore new sources of DNA. Because of that, the population needs to be 2,000 to 3,000, the scientists say, to survive a catastrophic event, like disease or the loss of a critical food source.

“The Yellowstone grizzly bear population faces significant threats to recovery because of its small size, significant annual fluctuations in mortality rates, inadequate habitat protections, major threats to key foods, genetic risks, and proposed additional human-caused bear mortalities,” the letter said.

## A Soldier’s Family Awaits One More Inquiry Into His Death

By **Monica Davey and Eric Schmitt**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

SAN JOSE, CALIF.

Patrick K. Tillman stood outside his law office here, staring intently at a yellow house across the street, just over 70 yards away. That, he recalled, is how far away his eldest son, Pat, who gave up a successful NFL career to become an Army Ranger, was standing from his fellow Rangers when they shot him dead in Afghanistan.

“I could hit that house with a rock,” Tillman said. “You can see every last detail on that place, everything, and you’re telling me they couldn’t see Pat?”

Tillman, 51, is a grieving father who has refused to give up on his son. While fiercely shunning the public spotlight that has followed Cpl. Pat Tillman’s death, Tillman has spent untold hours behind the scenes considering measurements like the 70 yards.

He has drafted lengthy, sometimes raw, letters to military leaders, demanding answers about the shooting. And he has studied — and challenged — Army PowerPoint presentations meant to explain how his son, who had called out his own name and waved his arms, wound up dead anyway, shot three times in the head by his own unit, which said it mistook him for the enemy.

## NYU And Columbia Get Gifts Of About \$200 Million Each

By **John Noble Wilford and Jonathan D. Glater**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

NEW YORK

New York University and Columbia have each received donations of about \$200 million, among the largest to academic institutions in recent years. The gifts, from different donors, come as both universities try to compete with rivals that have far larger endowments.

The gift to NYU, among the largest it has ever received, will create a multidisciplinary center for the study of the ancient world. Consisting of cash and real estate valued at up to \$200 million, the gift is from the Leon Levy Foundation. Levy, who died in 2003, was a Wall Street investor and benefactor of art and archaeology. The university president, John Sexton, and the Levy foundation’s trustee, Shelby White, Levy’s widow, are expected to announce the gift on Tuesday.

The gift to Columbia, announced Monday at a ceremony attended by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, is the largest in the university’s history. It is from the Jerome L. Greene Foundation, established by Greene, a prominent New York lawyer and a Columbia alumnus, and from his widow, Dawn M. Greene. The money, slightly more than \$200 million, will establish the Jerome L. Greene Science Center to study the brain and human behavior.

NYU officials emphasized in interviews that a goal of the new center, to be called the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World, was to approach the research and teaching of antiquity on a broad geographic and thematic scale. The focus will be on cultural evolution through time and across societies and regions, incorporating the history, archaeology, literature and art of antiquity.

## Google Offers A Financial Search Service

By **John Markoff**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

SAN FRANCISCO

Harnessing yet another data category to its search-engine prowess, Google is introducing a financial information service intended to compete directly with offerings from Microsoft, Yahoo and other sources, Google executives said Monday.

Google said the service, at [www.finance.google.com](http://www.finance.google.com), would distinguish itself by providing stock charts with interactive qualities like those on its Google Maps service, allowing users to find deeper or specified layers of data by sliding the cursor.

The site will focus on current and historical data for both public and private companies, and following a Google practice for its new offerings, it will not immediately carry advertisements.

“Our focus is on the user and the product,” said Marissa Mayer, Google’s vice president for search products and user experience. She said the company would consider revenue possibilities later.

Google said the initiative grew out of a survey it conducted 15 months ago, asking its users what kinds of new services they would find helpful. The response was dominated by two themes, maps and finance.



# OPINION



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## Corrections

The March 17 article “Debate Over New Dorm’s Future Continues” gave an incomplete title for Karen Nilsson. She is Associate Dean and Director of Housing, not Director of Housing. Also, the Executive Vice President is Sherwin Greenblatt, not Sherman Greenblatt.

## Letters To The Editor

### Editorial Unfairly Impugned DoD

Your editorial [“MIT Can’t Access It’s Own Research,” March 14] asserted that a Department of Defense investigation of alleged research misconduct by two Lincoln Laboratories scientists who contributed to a classified 1998 report would only be credible if it decided the allegations were true. That assertion is founded on the unwarranted conclusion that the allegations must be true and the unspoken assumption that no one in the Department of Defense can be trusted. It is surprising and disappointing that you would impugn highly respected sci-

entists at the Lincoln Laboratories without waiting for the results of the investigation, and denigrate the newly appointed investigator and those overseeing his review only because they have chosen public service in the Department of Defense. Your readers have a right to expect a more informed and judicious opinion from your editorial staff.

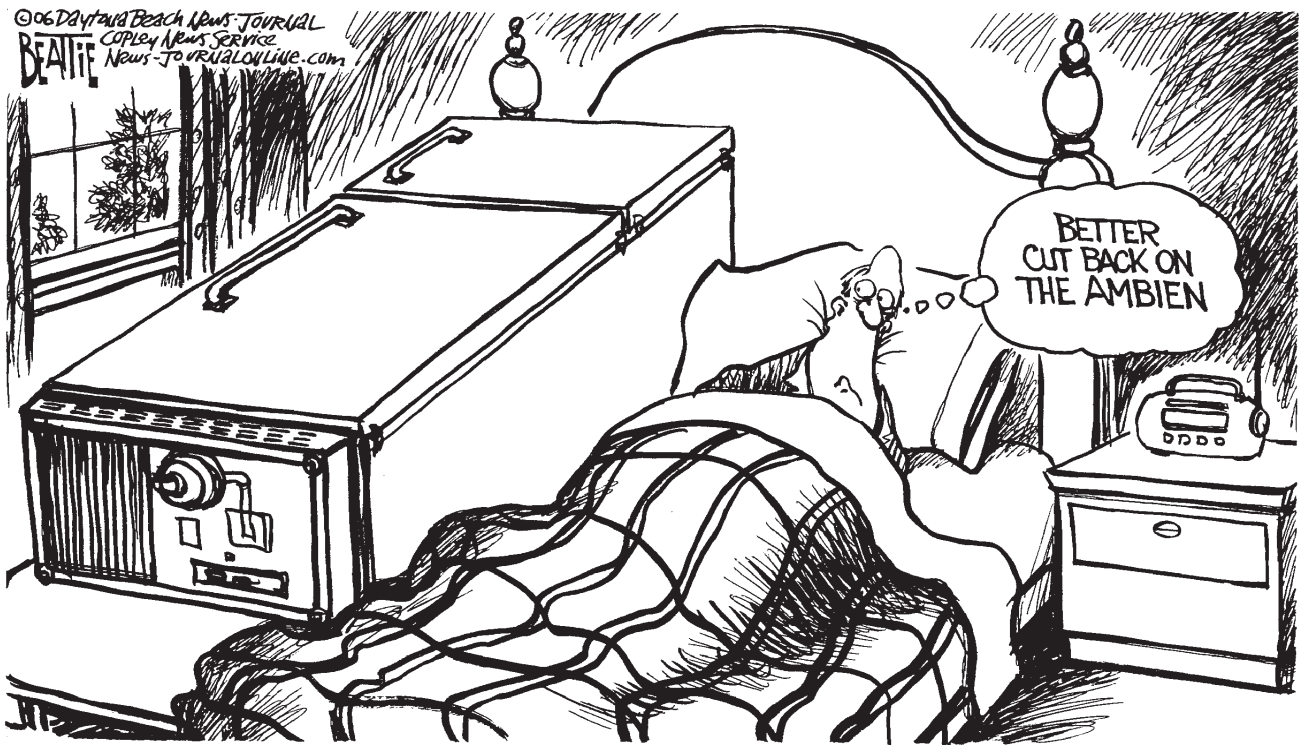
Rick Lehner  
Communications Director,  
U.S. Missile Defense Agency

### Can’t We Buy Real Doors for Lobby 7?

Walking up to 77 Massachusetts Ave., a vis-

itor encounters MIT students, marble columns, and a front door blocked by a metal bar. A sign on the door requests that, in order to save energy, the visitors avoid using the main entrance. I suppose this is less embarrassing than the signs that used to declare the door broken, and the caution tape that has prevented people from using it for months on end over the past couple of years. But it is still an embarrassment and an annoyance. If having an automatic door wastes too much energy, then install a non-automatic door. As a school that is at the frontier of science and technology, we should be able to find a solution that will allow us to have a usable front entrance all year round, and not just for Campus Preview Weekend and Orientation.

Alya Asarina '06



## Opinion Policy

**Editorials** are the official opinion of *The Tech*. They are written by the editorial board, which consists of the chairman, editor in chief, managing editor, opinion editors, a senior editor, and an opinion staffer.

**Dissents** are the opinions of signed members of the editorial board choosing to publish their disagreement with the editorial.

**Letters to the editor, columns, and editorial cartoons** are written by individuals and represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of the newspaper. Electronic submissions are encouraged and should be sent to [letters@the-tech.mit.edu](mailto:letters@the-tech.mit.edu). Hard copy submissions should be addressed to *The Tech*, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029, or sent by interdepartmental mail to Room W20-483. All submissions are due by 4:30 p.m. two days before the date of publication.

Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors’ signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will not be accepted.

*The Tech* reserves the right to edit or condense letters; shorter letters will be given higher priority. Once submitted, all letters become property of *The Tech*, and will not be returned. *The Tech* makes no commitment to publish all the letters received.

**Guest columns** are opinion articles submitted by members of the MIT or local community and have the author’s name in italics. Columns without italics are written by *Tech* staff.

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# CAMPUS LIFE

## Run Over by the RIAA

By Cassandra R. Hunt

I have a confession. Once upon a time, in a land just a little more dangerous than it is now, I was ... a pirate! I did not sail the torrential seas of the Internet in search of precious MB of glittering mp3 booty. No, I was content in my little cove, which was given the innocuous name i2hub. You will not find it with any site map or search bar — today it is googols of miles away, farther than any can travel, for even my haven was not safe from the long arm of the RIAA.

Last fall I wrote an opinion piece on music piracy (How to Avoid Getting RIAAed, Oct. 21, 2005) that may have seemed oddly timed to all but myself and, I am told, one other MIT student. It was inspired by an e-mail from MIT letting me know that the RIAA intended to extract my name from the ‘tute so that I could be named in a lawsuit. I began looking into previous RIAA suits to see how these things played out, and was surprised by the lack of firsthand accounts. How tragic, since the RIAA hopes fear of lawsuits will keep people from stealing music. More information on the process would turn that fear of the unknown into something more concrete and deridable.

So here we go: an account of my foray into the RIAA lawsuit machine. After that first e-mail, I didn’t hear anything for about two months until I received — joy of joys! — a package in the mail. While normally an occasion to celebrate, the fact that it was a large envelope from MIT legal quickly changed by tune. And tunes turned out to be the manner

at hand: the materials inside said MIT would be forking over my name in fourteen days, and proceeded to enumerate my rights and responsibilities hitherto and forthwith and sideways etc., etc., etc. And just in time for Christmas.

I’ve got to hand it to MIT legal, though. In mid-January I received another fat envelope letting me know that, because there was no confirmation that I had received the last mailing, MIT had held off giving up my name so they could send another one. Which may be legitimate, but also sounds like someone’s tap dancing to buy time. If this was the case, thanks, MIT.

However, even the ‘tute couldn’t put things off forever. Some things in life are inevitable, like death, taxes, and late nights tooling; such is the RIAA’s relentless pursuit of villainous, scurvy pirates like myself. I received a letter from a Colorado-based law firm telling me I’ve been named in a suit for copyright infringement.

At no time in the course of any of this had I been informed exactly what the RIAA had against me. I had been informed, however, that I should not delete any evidence of my crimes from my computer, even though they already had this mysterious evidence. Ironic, really, considering that not long ago I had sent my computer in to HP for a replacement DVD-ROM and, in their infinite wisdom, the company had decided that this warranted wiping my hard drive. On top of the three major projects and loads of photographs I’d lost, the music I’d been accused of sharing now rested in that mythical paradise to which all lost data goes.

The law firm was kind enough to pass along a number to contact RIAA representatives, so I gave it a ring ... and reached their “settlement negotiation hotline.” My jaw nearly dropped. Talk about an organized attack! And to add insult to injury, the area code was for Missouri, my home state. I left my name and number at the beep as instructed but decided to talk to the law firm instead ... and reached their RIAA-related answering machine.

Eventually, I got through to a real person and asked, perhaps a little peevishly, “So, what is it that you guys think you have on me, anyway?” The answer was (a whopping) 272 songs and, should the case go to trial, potentially \$750 per song. Now, I know what you’re thinking: with a collection of 272 whole songs, no wonder the RIAA felt compelled to squash my threat to the sanctity of music. However, with the grace and benevolence only a huge corporate machine could display, the lady on the phone told me they’d be willing to settle for \$3750.

I actually started laughing at her. “Okay,” I said, “so who do I talk to about negotiating that?” She replied that they usually wanted the amount within 15 days, but that they had a six month payment plan available. How nice. “No, no,” I said, “I mean who do I talk to about negotiating the amount.” Turns out the whole ‘negotiation’ part of the hotline covered the way they take your money, not to what degree.

On a related topic, check out my upcoming series on the best ways to raise money @mit.edu.

## Fo’ the Shorties Fighting

By Victor Cabral and Nikhil Shenoy

STAFF COLUMNISTS

Beer is great. In fact, our favorite type is “JBeer.” But there are some downsides associated with consuming libations, or so we’ve heard. Somewhere between five and ten beers, or two JBeers, dance juice becomes fight juice for men everywhere. College guys, too. Now, we’re not suggesting that you get into drunken brawls, we wouldn’t want something like that in writing; but we really do fully endorse fighting, maybe. However, if you do happen to step on someone’s kicks at a frat party, there are some general guidelines to follow. Why only guidelines and not hard rules? Because rules are for women and cheaters.

Fighting in a frat is tricky business. Frat guys tend to be cliquey, and when one of their own is in duress, they all feel the need to converge on the purveyor of said duress. Translation: you will get yo’ ass beat if you pick a fight with anyone in a frat. If you have to get into a fight at all, we would highly recommend bar fights, if we were going to recommend fighting, but we’re not, really.

There is a gentle balance, almost an art, to choosing who and when to fight at a bar. The two main variables are 1) not breaking your beautiful nose and 2) not coming off as a bully. These two competing factors are exactly what the ladies don’t want to see: no one wants to go home with a bloody nosed loser or with a bully. Of course, here we assume the goal of everything you do is to get women, and this is a good assumption. Just ask Bryan Adams.

Question: why does the rest of the world hate America? They hate us because we pick fights with countries the size of Iowa that end in “istan” and brutally kick their asses, and then talk about it ad nauseum as “victory.” Optimally, you want to pick a fight with someone who looks bigger but isn’t, like America taking on all of Europe, Australia, West Virginia, and the Middle East. Guideline: never fight anyone smaller than you. Anyone with a semblance of a brain can understand this concept. And for you course 14 and 15 guys, think about it this way: if you lose to a smaller opponent, that’s just sad, and if you win, well, you were supposed to win. Your expected value of fighting little people is thus negative, so another (really the same) guideline: go big, or go home. Unless you’re tossing midgets, which is jolly good sport.

Now, you’ve picked out the perfect opponent: he’s bigger, not necessarily badder, necessarily drunker, and unnecessarily willing to fight. Remember the one golden rule: go for the face. It’s not about who wins, it’s about who *looks* like the winner the next day. No doubt, it would make you feel better if your opponent is pissing blood, but no one except his gynecologist would know that. Note how we righteously call this dude a chick because he lost a fight to someone smaller than him.

In the same vein, protect your face with extreme prejudice. If you go home with a black eye, you will be going home alone with a black eye. We wish we came up with this rule, but it’s straight from The A\*\*hole’s Guide to Handling Chicks, which would be required reading if MIT offered a course on living life.

In their hit single “Bye Bye Bye,” one of the N\*Sync guys croons “I’m doin’ this tonight, you’re probably gonna start a fight, I know this can’t be right, hey baby come o-on.” Clearly, he’s addressing the vicious battle of ultimate destiny in which he and his boyfriend are about to engage. The song goes on to talk about other stuff like lies, insanity, and deep depression, but the overarching question is: just what was he doing this night, that would probably start a fight? The point here is that you don’t need a reason to fight. In fact, fighting isn’t cool: winning fights is cool.

Michael Jackson was the absolute King of cool and dance fights. The man is a living hate crime. The music video for “Beat It” still gets regular play on VH1 because it showcases Mike’s ability to bridge the gap between dangerous gang members and <Insert Target Race> gang members. Notice this can’t be construed as racism, because racism is only okay in small groups of close friends.

In conclusion: fight, fight big, and most importantly, fight to win and entertain. And if you want to know more about cool and entertaining, pick a fight with [vcabral@mit.edu](mailto:vcabral@mit.edu) and [nshenoy@mit.edu](mailto:nshenoy@mit.edu).

## This Monkey’s Gone to Heaven

### Roaming the Dusty Savannahs of MIT

By Ruth Miller

OPINION EDITOR

MIT is not your typical football-loving, sun-worshipping, skip-class-on-Friday-because-you-partied-too-hard-on-Thursday: “The New Friday” -night, state school. And perhaps one of the subtlest differences that make MIT a sociological collegiate outlier is the way in which students compete for mating rights.

In the wild, animals compete for territory or mating rights with brightly colored feathers, sweet songs, and/or razor-sharp claws. Most of us who have watched the Discovery Channel know that combative grizzly bears on their hind legs can reach almost eight feet. Male caribou can grow antlers as wide as 160 cm wide to beat the competition for females, even if these bulky antlers can get permanently entangled in low-hanging trees. The college-dating scene is no less bizarre or dangerous.

In the even wilder world of state schools, competition is no less fierce. We’ve all got those friends, as Facebook often reminds us, who do the most ridiculous things to get girls. There’s the guy that’s going to be a “rock star” and serenades girls with the crap songs he wrote. Sometimes, physical talent (i.e., being the star quarterback) is the ticket to ride. Whether the wealth is inherited, earned, or looming in the future, the rich kid is another archetype to observe. My personal favorite remains the winner of the traditional biggest pickup truck competition. All these rituals come with specific mat-

ing calls (or pickup lines) and plumages (be it a popped collar or indie rock shirt).

Mating rituals at MIT are something else entirely. Here, your personal worth is determined by your workload: your lack of sleep, your berth of problem sets, your number and difficulty of major. Your “hard coreness,” so to 5p3a<. We’ve seen it time and time again. Two sullen students recognize each other in line at La Verde’s.

Tiredly, the first asks: “Hey, how’s it going?” Confidently (but also tiredly), the other responds: “Oh, man, I’m so hosed. I just pulled two all-nighters and still haven’t started my third pset that’s due tomorrow.”

Faux-sympathetic acknowledgment: “Yeah ... I just finished my fourth pset of the week and have to stay up all tonight to start and finish a stupid HASS paper.”

Evoking the triviality of his opponent’s assignments, the other continues, “I’d rather take a HASS test than read a hundred pages on something completely irrelevant to anything.”

Check: “The paper’s not as bad as the programming project I’ve got due at the end of the week. My group hasn’t even met yet.”

Suddenly, out of nowhere: “Oh, and I just added a UROP, so I’m now at 72 units.”

Checkmate.

The victor’s sub sandwich is up, he grabs it and swaggers off to the caffeinated drinks before gloating smugly at his inferior from the checkout line.

As a system of attracting potential mates,

## Ask Nutty B!

well, that’s a different story.

An arm as a power force for finishing your PhD? Isn’t your brain supposed to be your power force, complemented by the rest of your body? What kind of PhD were you doing that required only your right hand? Wait, I don’t want to know ...

At any rate, if you are “switching” just for the sake of switching, then you can always switch back, can’t you? As for finishing your PhD, I am sure with a sharp mind like yours, you will be fine with either arm!

Dear Nutty B,

*I am a senior, and I am in the process of applying for medical school. I sent in all my application materials on time. It’s almost April now, and I have not even heard back from one school. What’s going on? My parents think I am hiding from them, but what can I tell them if none of the 20 schools I applied to has got back to me? What’s going on? Was your grad school application experience like this?*

—Veronica

Dear Veronica,

Twenty schools and none has got back to you?? Coincidentally, the owl I used to deliver my report to my thesis committee apparently got

or dates, this process presents some obstacles. Why is mating at MIT so difficult?

Third: Winners of this competition are rarely the best to date. I’ve heard of a guy who’s girlfriend dumped him because he spent more time with his robot than her. Doesn’t sound too ridiculous, does it?

Second: MIT students are inherently more hard core than their counterparts at other schools, and thus must face difficulties when interacting with the non-MIT world. Who hasn’t had the experience of chatting up a hot guy/girl at Circuit City for twenty minutes, only for them to run away and “do inventory” when they find out you go to MIT? We’re thus left to inbreed.

First: MIT girls aren’t typically the “I’m going to sit around on a pedestal and be a trophy” type. Neither are the guys. So the normal “male beats male, male wins female” system breaks down. Variations manage to get by, but the process gets complicated when no one is to be “won.”

Does this mean that MIT students are doomed to loneliness? No, but it does partially explain why other schools worry more about pregnancy than suicide. So what is a lonely MIT student to do? Swallow his or her pride and date someone from BU? Heck, no. Look around and follow the trend. Grab a freshman before they learn better. And when that fails, adopt the old Red Sox adage: “There’s always next year.”

*Ruth Miller ’07 is dating a member of the class of 2008 she met while checking in his luggage during Orientation.*

lost a few days ago, so the committee members never got it (at least that’s how I explained it to them).

I am quite sure our situations are very different. I didn’t apply to medical school, but I believe the application processes are quite different. Also, unless you’re waiting-for-decision time also involves spell casting, voodoo doll-making, and wand waving, I can guarantee that our personal experiences were quite different as well.

Why don’t you make a call to check the status, just to make sure you aren’t one of the lucky ones who have some materials missing or a file that was submitted but never received? Don’t call too often, though, or else the admission office people might go nuts, and we don’t want that! Before you make any call, I suggest that you re-check and double check the review timeline for each school. Every school in the U.S. might have its own timeline in terms of admission reviewing process, and if you’ve also applied to some medical schools in Central America, Africa, or somewhere in the Middle East, the system might be totally different.

Who knows? Perhaps by the time you see this column, the letters will start to arrive. Be patient, but do make sure your file is complete so you won’t be at any disadvantage. Good luck!

Dear Nutty B,

*I’m a righty. However, I have to switch to my left arm as my major power force, despite that my right arm remains intact. Any advice on finishing my PhD in this situation?*

—Mr. Lucky Charm

Dear Mr. Lucky Charm,

Is this some sort of test of my wittiness and/or nuttiness to see if I can answer a question without having enough info to understand it? I have to say this is one of the weirdest questions I’ve ever gotten, and one of those I can’t really answer unless you give me more information. Why do you “now have to switch to [your] left arm,” if everything is OK with your right one? Does this really have to do with your arm, or is it actually about your mind? It’s OK either way. If your right arm is physically hurt, then you should see a medical doctor. If it’s the latter,



The  
Tech

COMICS

March 21,  
2006

FUN

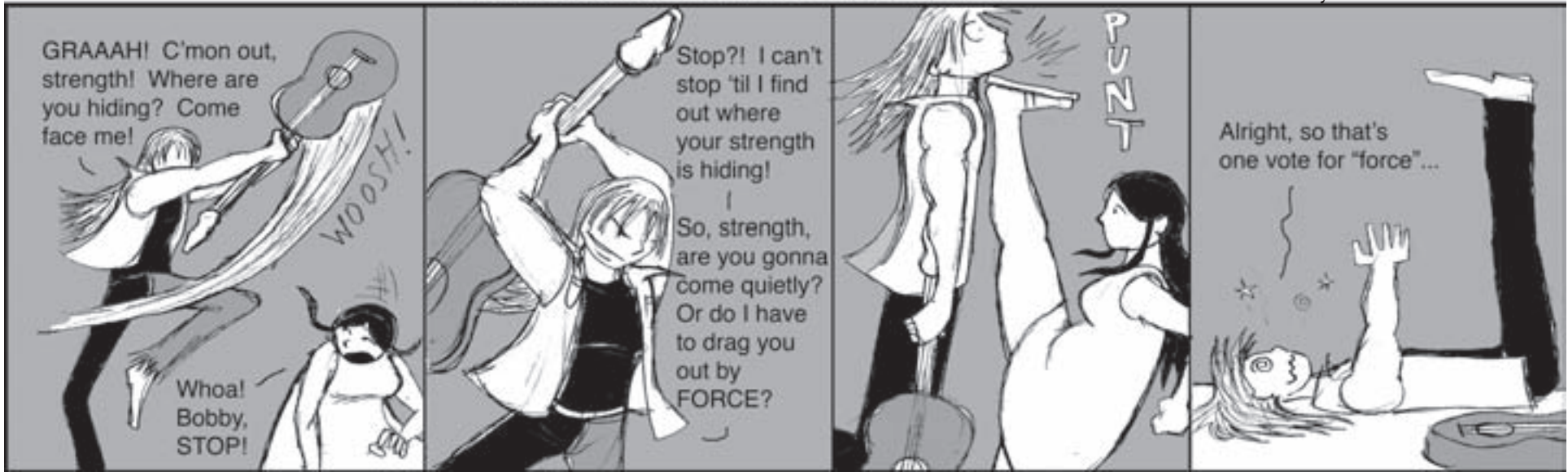
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6

PAGES

Trio

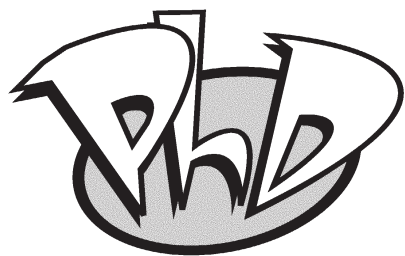
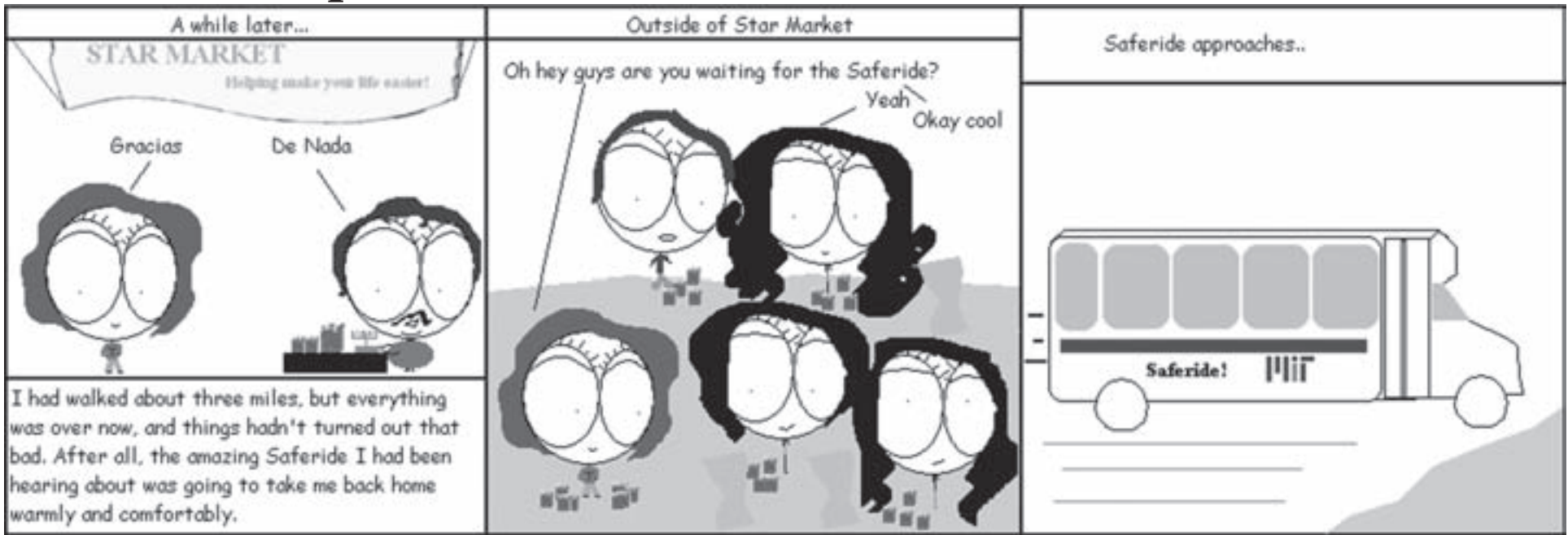
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by Emezie Okorafor

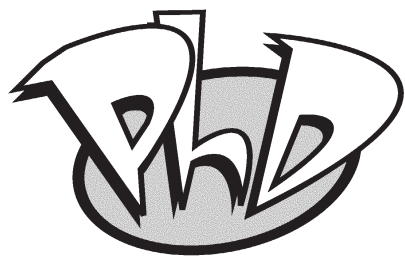


A Saferide Experience

by Otoniel Tabares and Shahbano Imran



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PILED HIGHER AND  
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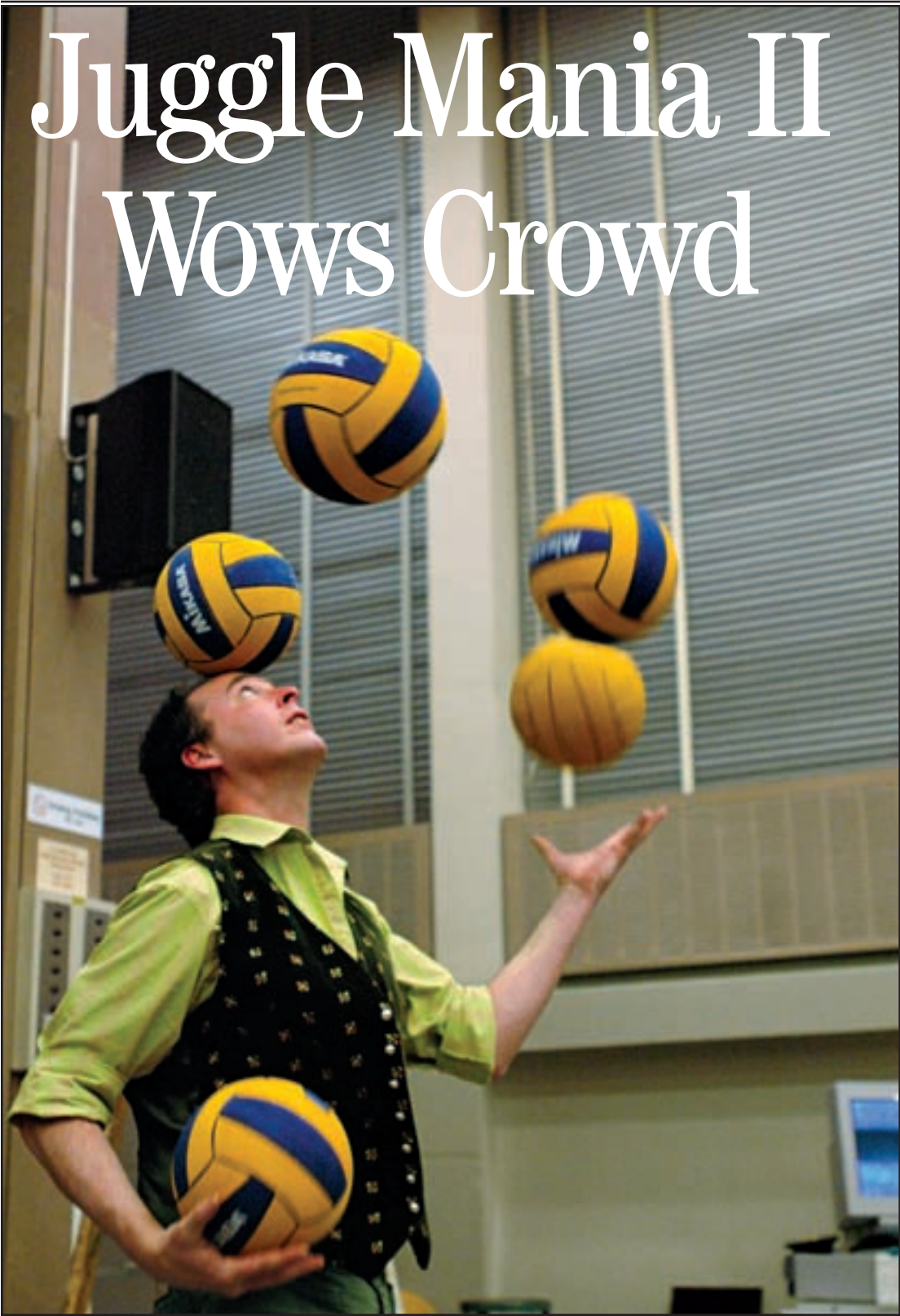
by Scott Adams

su | do | ku

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9. Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>; see also solution on page 13.





The MIT Student Juggling Club put on a performance called Juggle Mania II this past Saturday, March 18th in 54-100. The event raised money for the Afghan Mobile Mini Circus for Children, an organization that provides psycho-social support to children in difficult circumstances, according to its Web site.



RAY C. HE—THE TECH



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



Clockwise from right:  
Milan A. de Vries G sells concessions while juggling.  
Zachary Warren, world-record-holder for "fastest marathon while juggling three objects," escapes from a straitjacket while jumping rope.  
Eric W. Gilbertson '08 jumps rope while on a unicycle for 6 jumps.  
Peter Panic, a professional juggler and comic who's been practicing on campus with the MIT Juggling Club for the last 16 years, gives an impromptu demonstration after the show.  
While balancing on a board and 3-inch piece of PVC, David W. Rush '07 juggles three knives in a variety of patterns.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

RAY C. HE—THE TECH





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Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Photo: Patsy Sampson

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# 28 SAT Scores Were Affected

Admissions, from Page 1

cessing of October 2005 SAT tests, resulting in the miscalculation of at least 4,000 students' scores, of whom 28 had applied to MIT. Colleges were immediately notified.

All of the applicants were being considered in the regular action candidate pool, Schmill said. Their applications were re-reviewed, but no admissions decisions were changed.

"The College Board problem did not affect the cases of the 28 applicants involved," Jones said. "I can only wonder, though, about the students applying to Early Decision programs at other places who might not have been admitted in December because of the score change," Jones. "It certainly shakes your trust in the College Board."

The writing section of the new SAT test was not a requirement for this year's applicants, as not all students have taken the new test. According to Schmill, the scores from the writing section were collected but not used to evaluate students.

"We'll do some analysis on the scores with this year's group and know how to use the scores next year and in the future," he said.

Solution to  
Bonus Crossword  
from page 7

A	L	P	S		C	A	S	T		G	A	U	Z	E			
M	E	R	C		U	L	E	E		U	L	N	A	R			
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D	O	T			E	M	T			U	S	C					
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S	A	N	E	R		D	A	N	G		T	S	K	S			

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### Solution to Crossword

from page 7

S	C	A	B	T	B	A	R	P	A	C	E	D
L	U	C	E	A	O	N	E	A	M	E	N	D
O	R	C	A	P	A	N	G	S	A	L	T	S
P	I	E	C	E	S	T	O	G	E	T	H	E
P	A	S	H	A				A	R	E	R	E
Y	E	S		S	O	C	C	E	R	T	I	N
			S	I	N	A	I		P	E	A	C
		F	O	L	L	O	W	S	A	H	U	N
L	I	M	E	Y		C	L	A	B	U	S	
A	N	E	W		P	R	O	P	E	L		A
P	A	L		T	O	E		I	S	T	L	E
	G	E	T	S	T	H	E	P	I	C		
U	L	T	R	A		A	R	I	D		E	M
M	E	T	E	R		S	I	L	O		E	N
P	R	E	Y	S		H	E	E	L		P	I

## Solution to Sudoku

from page 7

6	3	4	7	5	1	9	2	8
9	2	7	4	8	3	1	6	5
5	1	8	2	6	9	7	4	3
2	5	9	3	7	8	6	1	4
4	8	3	9	1	6	5	7	2
7	6	1	5	2	4	8	3	9
8	4	2	6	9	7	3	5	1
1	7	5	8	3	2	4	9	6
3	9	6	1	4	5	2	8	7



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# Nanoknitting Not a Total Cure, But Helpful for Brain Surgeries

Nanoknitting, from Page 1

whose branch has been cut, but then the growth stalls. Researchers are trying to figure out why, and what they can do to spur more growth.

In the current work, Ellis-Behnke theorizes that either the nanoparticles block signals that trigger an immune response or they coat the growing tip of the axon, blocking the signals that tell them not to grow.

In recent years, scientists have chipped away at the problem of regenerating neural connections. There is growing consensus that there will be no magic bullet that addresses all these problems. Instead, scientists are investigating multiple strategies, each designed to address a different challenge.

Some examples of recent progress, as singled out in a report just released by the nonprofit Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives:

Using an enzyme to encourage growth of the neuron and special cells to guide and structurally support that growth improved the recovery of rats with severed spinal cords.

A mix of stem cells and gene therapy targeted at rebuilding myelin also improved the recovery of rats with injured spinal cords.

A growing understanding of what blocks regrowth - including a protein called "Nogo" - has led to several possible countermeasures.

Also, scientists have been experimenting with "growth factors" to

boost nerve regrowth in adults.

Ellis-Behnke's work, published online last week in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science, adds another possible tool, said several scientists familiar with the work but not involved with it.

The neuroknitting appears "very helpful" for brain repair, and "I think if they can do it in the spinal cord, it may be wonderful," said Tatfong Ng, a researcher at the Schepens Eye Research Institute in Boston.

The knitting "could be very useful in combination with other treatments," said Wolfram Tetzlaff, associate director of discovery science ICORD, the International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries in British Columbia, which focuses on spinal cord injuries.

However, he said, the hamster work involved a "clean knife cut" across the optic nerve, and "this is not how injuries typically present themselves." Usually, neural connections torn by a stroke or a car accident, for example, tend to be much messier and thus harder to bridge.

Repairing clean cuts could be extremely useful, though, for stemming the harm from brain surgery, in which a surgeon's scalpel leaves collateral damage every time it cuts into the brain. Ellis-Behnke, who also works for the University of Hong Kong Medical Facility, says he believes that within three to five years, it could be possible to start experiments with the nanoknitting material

during human brain surgery.

"Every time you cut the brain, you're disconnecting things, and that disconnection has never healed in the past," he said. "We're not only healing it, we're getting regeneration, and we're getting return of function."

One appealing feature of the nanomaterial is that it is biodegradable and apparently poses no danger of contamination or inflammation inside the brain or spinal cord.

The nanoknitting work did not totally cure the blind hamsters. But the nanomaterial, injected within an hour after the visual pathway was cut in 16 adult hamsters, appeared to reduce the gap within the first 24 hours, and the axons regrew through the center of the cut.

When tested, three-quarters of those hamsters could see, as judged by whether they turned toward a nearby seed. None of the 31 blinded adult hamsters who had not received the nanosolution regained their sight.

For all the drama of restored vision, Ellis-Behnke emphasized that nanoknitting "is not a panacea."

"We think it will take several other things, and we don't even know if this is the best," he said.

One of his next areas of research, he said: Exploring whether the nanomaterial can be helpful long after the nerve damage has occurred, which would make it useful to people who already suffer from spinal cord or brain damage.

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# Best First Round NCAA Game: Northwestern State Over Iowa

Lei, from Page 16

cial 25 times (More reason to get that DirecTV package: there are no commercials).

2) Gerry “Not-Gonna-Get-Drafted-Anymore” McNamara having the worst game of his life: 2 points on 0-6 shooting en route to his Orangemen being upset by Texas A&M. (Note to self: never, EVER pick an overrated team that got lukewarm before the tourney to make it to the Sweet 16.)

3) George Washington’s ho-hum 18-point comeback over UNC-Wilmington to win in OT, a game where all but about 4 minutes were seen as a score box in the upper left corner of the TV. An 18-point comeback just doesn’t look all that impressive when you only see the score change.

4) The #7 Shockers of Wichita State beating the #10 Seton Hall Pirates. Cue sexual innuendo.

5) Third seed Gonzaga needing all of Adam “Stop-Making-Fun-Of-My-Baby-Mustache-Already” Morrison’s

35 points to overcome a very composed Xavier. Morrison’s good, as advertised, but you probably weren’t hoping his Bulldogs would have to work this hard to get past a #14 seed when you were picking them to go to the Final Four.

All the big shots and crazy finishes coming one after another on day one, and that’s only half of the first round games. Day 2 had arguably the best game of the tourney so far: #3 Iowa falling to #14 Northwestern State. They had Northwestern State down 17 with 8 and a half minutes to go, and all but watched as the Demons stormed back and then took the game with a fade away 3-pointer with half a second to go.

You just had to have seen it coming if you were watching the game though. The Iowa coach, Steve Alford, had his team playing flat-footed, don’t-lose basketball after getting the big lead in the second half, and State just never stopped coming.

Finally there was the #16 seed

that did the almost-impossible: beat a #1 in the first round. I swear, one of these years, the Albanians in the world are going to keep hitting those 3’s and play defense like they’re tripping on speed down the stretch and prevail over the lackadaisical UConns in the world. Nobody, not even the ones who had UConn winning it all, was rooting for them when they were down by 12 with 10 minutes to go; the allure of the upset was too much.

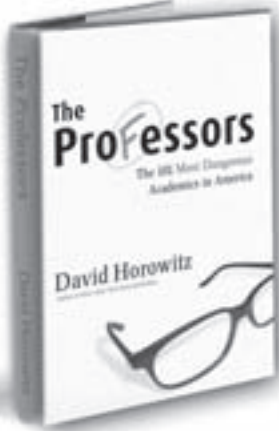
The best part of the first 2 days of the tourney? It’s just the tip. There is so much more to come: When is Bradley’s run going to run out of steam? When will UConn finally realize they’re in a single-elimination tournament and start killing the Albanians and the Kentuckies of the world (seriously you guys, step it up. For me. Please!)? These are just some of the stories brewing below the tip of this proverbial iceberg. So skip class, miss work, and tune in to the greatest-until-I-decide-to-write-about-something-else tournament in the world!



## The Professors

by David Horowitz

Noam Chomsky  
Professor of Modern Languages & Linguistics,  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology



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With Faith, Hope, and Love,

the Sisters of Kappa Alpha Theta, Zeta Mu Chapter



SPORTS



**Zachary M. Eisenstat '06 performs a straddleseat on the still rings in a competition against the U.S. Military Academy held in du Pont Gymnasium. The MIT Men's Gymnastics team lost to the Army team 188.55-199.65 this past Saturday, March 18.**

Pools, Upsets Make NCAA's Great

By Wang S. Lei  
GUEST COLUMNIST

Stop what you're doing. This is important.

That's right, the sporting event that is costing companies nationwide a little less than \$4 billion in lost productivity is here. March Madness, baby! As of last Sunday, millions of workers, students, and illegal immigrants all suddenly became college basketball experts.

Let's be honest here, maybe 10 percent of the people who filled out brackets in the country knew what they're doing, and 90 percent of those work for either ESPN or Sports Illustrated. But that hasn't stopped anyone from throwing down those five dollars (fake money, of course), picking the bad teams with awesome-sounding names like Xavier, Iona, or Texas to make improbable runs to the Sweet 16.

Of course, I don't claim to be a college basketball expert. I don't

know every team's Ratings Percentage Index and Strength of Schedule. I don't even know where most of these teams are located. And that's one of the things that make March Madness great: any schmuck can sit down with a blank bracket, make the most ridiculous picks, and look like a genius at the end of the day.

Oh, and did I mention the basketball games? I may not have the perfect bracket (yeah, I picked Iona over LSU and had Utah State going to the Sweet 16, wanna fight about it?), but as a basketball fan, you just can't beat having the 64 best college teams playing in 32 games over a 36-hour span. As the Cookie Monster says, "Too much of a good thing could be a better thing."

The game I skipped my first class Thursday to watch, #4 Boston College vs #13 Pacific, was a thrilling double OT win by Boston College (I know where this school is, kind of), saving 10 million brackets. You have to give credit to BC for not losing their composure, even after Pacific fought back into the game at the end of regulation

and took a 6 point lead in the first OT with a barrage of threes.

Next came #2 Tennessee squeaking by #15 Winthrop. There have been grumblings that Tennessee should not have gotten a #2 seed over the likes of Gonzaga and Boston College. Those suspicions were confirmed on Thursday, when the Volunteers needed a fade-away 19-footer by Chris Lofton with 3 seconds left to defeat lowly Winthrop. It's a mystery to me why CBS didn't show this potentially huge bracket-buster over Marquette vs. Alabama, instead of only switching to it when there were only 2 left to play. Sure, the Marquette game was pretty good in its own right (it even came down to a goofy-looking white guy missing a 3-pointer that would have tied the game), but not when compared to the Tennessee game. Just gives you a reason to get that DirecTV package.

In addition to the barn burners, by the end of the first night we had:

- 1) The same Applebee's commer-

Lei, Page 15

Bogsted Scores Run And Pitches Shutout For 1-0 Softball Win

By Caitlin Murray  
STAFF WRITER

From leg-numbingly cold bleachers that made the spectators long for spring, 23 dedicated fans watched the MIT Women's Softball team shut out the Regis College Pride 1-0 in their season opener this Friday. Leah A. Bogsted '08, last year's NEWMAC Rookie of the Year and Friday's hero, posted nine strikeouts, and scored the game's only run.

After going 6-21 last year and being knocked out of the NEWMAC tournament in the first round, the Engineers hope to improve their performance this season. With five freshmen, eight sophomores, and a single upperclassman, this is a young team struggling to come into its own.

Bogsted started shakily in the first, putting runners on the corners and walking another to load the bases with one out. But she quickly set the tone for the rest of the game, chalking up two decisive strike-outs to escape the inning unscathed.

The Engineers also missed some early opportunities. After drawing a walk as the lead-off batter, Adrienne H. Hee '08 moved to third on a sacrifice bunt and a ground out, but was stranded by a short ground-out to the pitchers mound.

In the second inning, the Pride tried to get the upper hand on Bogsted. Veronica Coles nailed a drive down the left field line for a double. After a sacrifice bunt moved her to third, MIT left fielder Helen C. O'Keefe '09 stepped into the lime-light. Making a diving catch to rob Coleen Hill of an extra base and an RBI, O'Keefe made another running catch, ending the inning and maintaining the shutout.

In the bottom of the second, after drawing a walk to reach first, Bogsted moved to second on a bunt by Corinne E. Vannatta '08. On a long, hard shot by Holly K. Jeffrey '08, Bogsted took off, rounded third, and was waved home by the third base coach. But the Pride

were faster on the play than expected, beating Bogsted home with the play, catching her in a potential run-down. But the Regis catcher, Blair Benander, just held the ball, allowing Bogsted to return, unchecked, to third. In the meantime, Jeffrey moved on to second. But the Engineers choked, stranding Jeffrey and Bogsted and going scoreless into the third.

The Engineers were finally able to seal the deal in the bottom of the fourth. Leading off, Bogsted sent a line drive up the middle for a single. Vannatta moved her to second with a sacrifice bunt and Jeffrey sent her to third on a ground out. The throw to third went long, landing in foul territory, giving Bogsted time to reach home and give the Engineers the lead. But the momentum and any chance to increase their lead died with an inning ending ground out.

Both sides went down in order in the fifth. In the sixth, Bogsted struck out two and forced another into a ground out. In the bottom of the sixth, after Cheryl A. Texin '06 drew a walk, Bogsted grounded into a double play. With two outs, the Engineers tried to awaken the team and pad the lead. Vannatta dropped a single into left field and Jeffrey drew a walk, but they were stranded by an inning ending line-out.

Any last hopes for the Pride were dashed by Bogsted's performance in the top of the seventh. After striking out two, she allowed a single up the middle. But that was the end for the Pride, as she forced the next batter into a ground out to third.

MIT's defense was impeccable, with Bogsted on the mound and solid fielders behind her, but if they expect to improve their record this season, their offense is going to have to be able to knock in runs. Stranding seven does not bode well for their ability to produce in the future. Nevertheless, the Engineers have demonstrated their ability to win, which they hope to replicate on Thursday, March 23 when they host Brandeis University.

Men's Volleyball Clinches Berth in NECVA Tourney  
Engineers Win 20 for Second Consecutive Season

By Mindy Brauer  
ASST. DIR. OF SPORTS INFORMATION

Faced with a 24-20 deficit in the third game of its match against Endicott College on Thursday, the MIT Men's Volleyball team battled back to close out the game and post a 30-25, 30-16, 34-32 victory. The win gave the Engineers a 20-8 record, marking the second time in the program's history that they have notched back-to-back 20-win seasons. Tech first reached this milestone during the 1986 and 1987 campaigns. Endicott fell to 12-14.

Eugene Jang '09 and Ryan G. Dean '08 anchored MIT's defense with 15 digs each while Jordan X. Wan '06 collected 10 digs and 47 assists. For the second match in a row, Praveen Pamidimukkala '08 tallied seven assisted blocks and contributed 16 kills and eight digs. Michelangelo A. Raimondi '06 had a solid outing with 10 kills, three assisted blocks, and two aces. Kenneth K. Rosche '08 also totaled 10 kills and posted four assisted blocks. T. Scott Pollom '09 bolstered the front row's play with eight kills and six assisted blocks.

Volleyball Beats Emmanuel 3-0

Two days earlier, the team defeated Emmanuel College (10-9) 30-22, 33-31, 30-26, in a NECVA New England division match. The win solidified the Engineers' second-place ranking in the conference and clinched their second consecutive post season berth in the NECVA Conference Tournament to be held March 31 to April 2 at Endicott College.

Raimondi paced Tech with a season-high 11 kills. Pamidimukkala recorded a career-high seven assisted blocks to go along with 10 kills and a team-best nine digs. Rosche posted eight kills while Dean tallied seven kills, seven digs, and four assisted blocks. Jang contributed seven digs as Pollom racked up five assisted blocks.

Wan, the previous week's NECVA New England Player of the Week, finished with 38 assists, six digs, four assisted blocks, four kills, and an ace.

The Engineers will play their final home match of the season on Tuesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. in Rockwell Cage against Southern Vermont College.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

<b>Tuesday, March 21</b> Men's Volleyball vs. Southern Vermont College	Rockwell Cage, 7:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday, March 22</b> Men's Tennis vs. Bates College Men's Lacrosse vs. Endicott College	du Pont Tennis court, 3:30 p.m. Jack Barry Field, 4:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday, March 23</b> Baseball vs. Wentworth Softball vs. Brandeis	Briggs Field, 3:00 p.m. Briggs Field, 3:00 p.m.

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